



General Assembly

Seventy-first session

Official Records

1st plenary meeting
Tuesday, 13 September 2016, 3.50 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Thomson (Fiji)

The meeting was called to order at 3.50 p.m.

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly

The President: I declare open the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Minute of silent prayer or meditation

The President: In accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure, I invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The President: I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: It is a great pleasure to join everyone for the opening of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. I congratulate most sincerely His Excellency Mr. Peter Thomson of Fiji on assuming the very important Office of the President. Fiji is on the front lines of many key issues on the international agenda, from climate change to disaster-risk reduction, to promoting growth and prosperity for all. His country's perspectives will certainly enrich our deliberations in the months ahead. I welcome the theme that he chose for this session, namely, "The Sustainable

Development Goals: a universal push to transform our world".

This first year is crucial. It is a time when all Member States should align their policies, programmes and spending behind the 17 Goals. It is also time to bring the Paris Agreement on climate change into force. The high-level event I will host on 21 September will strengthen momentum for achieving that objective this year. The third United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat III), to be held next month in Quito, will be a further opportunity. I look forward to hearing members' strong voice across our agenda. The Assembly will begin work in earnest on Monday with a summit on the plight of refugees and migrants.

And of course, on 1 January 2017, the seventy-first session will welcome the ninth Secretary-General into the Hall and the Secretariat conference rooms. You, Mr. President, will serve as a bridge between my administration and the next, as you said in your acceptance speech (see A/70/PV.118). You will have my full support and that of my team in ensuring a seamless transition. The Assembly will be called upon to address many threats and show its solidarity with people facing injustice. People also look to this organ not just to react to problems, but to work proactively and preventively to better the human condition.

I know, Sir, that you have been undertaking wide-ranging consultations in preparation for the duties you now assume. The Secretariat and I look forward to working closely with you towards a session that

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produces meaningful results for all. I count on your strong leadership.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

Item 138 of the provisional agenda

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/71/381)

The President: Next, I would like, in keeping with established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/70/381. It contains a letter from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly, in which he informs the Assembly that four Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

I would like to remind delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter,

"A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years".

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the information contained in document A/71/381?

It was so decided.

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Credentials of representatives to the seventy-first session of the General Assembly

(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

The President: Rule 28 of the rules of procedure provides that the General Assembly at the beginning of each session shall appoint, on the proposal of the President, a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members.

Accordingly, it is proposed that, for the seventy-first session, the Credentials Committee should consist of the following Member States: Cameroon, China, Malawi, the Netherlands, Paraguay, the Republic of

Korea, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, and the United States of America.

May I take it that the States that I have just mentioned are hereby appointed members of the Credentials Committee?

It was so decided.

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Organization of work of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly

Letter from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences (A/71/382)

The President: The Assembly will now turn its attention to document A/71/382, which contains a letter dated 7 September 2016 from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly. Members are aware that, pursuant to section 1, paragraph 7, of Assembly resolution 40/243, of 18 December 1985, no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during the main part of a regular session of the Assembly, unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

On the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, authorization is thus sought for the following subsidiary organs: the United Nations Appeals Tribunal; the Committee on Relations with the Host Country; the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund; the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; the Board of Auditors; the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations; the Specialized Agencies; the International Atomic Energy Agency; the Independent Audit Advisory Committee; and the Committee on Conferences itself.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to authorize those subsidiary organs of the Assembly to meet during the main part of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.



General Assembly

Seventy-first session

2nd plenary meeting

Friday, 16 September 2016, 3 p.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Thomson (Fiji)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m..

Tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The President: It is my sad duty to pay tribute to the memory of the late President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Islam Karimov, who passed away on Friday, 2 September. On behalf of the General Assembly, I request the representative of Uzbekistan to convey our condolences to the Government and the people of Uzbekistan and to the bereaved family of President Islam Karimov.

May I now invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of President Islam Karimov.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President: On behalf of all of us in this Hall, it is my sad duty to express my deepest condolences to the people and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the loss of President Islam Karimov. Mr. Karimov embodied the Republic of Uzbekistan's modern history, having led his country for 15 years from the very first day of its independence on 1 September 1991. Uzbekistan has always been at the crossroads of the world, and I am confident that the Uzbek authorities will ensure a smooth transition on the road to security, stability, social development and prosperity for the country and for its people. My thoughts and profound sympathy also go to President Karimov's family. I

would be grateful to Ambassador Madрахimov if he would kindly convey the message to them.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I join with everyone in extending our condolences to the bereaved family of the late President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Islam Karimov. As the first President of the independent Republic of Uzbekistan, President Karimov undertook wide-ranging efforts to further the economic and social development of his country. Uzbekistan made notable progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and has supported the new sustainable Development Goals.

Uzbekistan has also contributed to stability and development in Afghanistan, and has strived to support peace and security across the region. Among the most important initiatives of President Karimov's tenure was the promotion of the establishment of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, which entered into force in 2009.

I have visited Uzbekistan twice as Secretary-General, most recently in June 2015. I felt the warmth of the country's people and saw the good cooperation that exists between Uzbekistan and the United Nations. I also witnessed the devastation in and around the Aral Sea. I urge the international community to intensify its support for Uzbekistan's efforts to cope with the consequences of this disaster.

Today, 25 years after Uzbekistan achieved its independence, and as President Karimov himself once

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said, the interests, rights and freedoms of the people should be at the centre of all development efforts. The United Nations remains committed to assisting Uzbekistan in advancing fundamental freedoms, building democratic institutions and nurturing a climate of inclusion and dialogue. As the Government and people of Uzbekistan embark on the next chapter in the country's history, I reiterate the full commitment of the United Nations, including the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, to continuing to work closely for peace, development and human rights for all the people of Uzbekistan and beyond.

Once again, I extend my deep condolences on the loss of President Karimov.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. Boudadoun (Algeria): On this solemn occasion, the Group of African States wishes to express its deepest condolences to the Government and the people of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the passing of President Islam Karimov, a sad event that occurred on 2 September. The late President will be remembered for his laudable commitment to the advancement of his country and the Central Asia region as a whole.

We in Africa call to remembrance his leadership in the promotion and entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in 2009, which coincided with the entry into force of Africa's Treaty of Pelindaba five months later, on 15 July 2009. The Group of African States also wishes to extend its heartfelt condolences during this very sad period to the bereaved family of the late President. May his soul rest in perfect peace and perpetual light shine upon him.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan, who will speak on behalf of the Asia-Pacific States.

Mr. Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan): It is my honour, but a most sad one, to address you, Sir, from this rostrum on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States as we gather today to mourn and pay tribute to a great leader. Allow me to extend our Group's sincere condolences on the passing of President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, one of the most outstanding statesmen and political leaders of modern times. I would also like to express our deep sorrow to his bereaved family and

to the Government and the people of the Republic of Uzbekistan. We hope that Allah will grant them all the strength to bear such an irreplaceable loss.

President Islam Karimov attached great importance to strengthening cooperation between his country and international and regional organizations and had his country join the United Nations and other intergovernmental structures. As a strong proponent of a nuclear-weapon-free world, he initiated the establishment of the Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone. Islam Karimov was a leader of strong principles, integrity and steadfastness to his country and society. Instilling in all citizens a great sense of national pride, he united them as a strong member State among the family of nations. His commitment to moving Uzbekistan forward from the commencement of his leadership was demonstrated in enormous efforts to improve the living standards of his people, promote small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship, develop infrastructure and many other measures he undertook. His entire track record portrayed his genuine desire to maintain better economic and social conditions through sound reforms and to make Uzbek culture known globally.

To achieve such lofty goals, he set out to address a number of pressing issues, such as population growth, the advancement of the national economy and sustainable development, among many others. Under the iconic slogan "Uzbekistan: a future great State", which he coined to consolidate his nationals and inspire them to invest in the future, the country made great strides in many fields. Today, the citizens of Uzbekistan attribute that outstanding accomplishment to the much beloved leader that President Karimov was for them.

What makes the trajectory of the first President's life a source of inspiration for generations to come in his country and elsewhere is the fact that the hardships he faced during the different periods of his life did not affect his resolve to steer his country on the path of modernization, progress and prosperity. He let it take its rightful place in the international community. The late President Karimov will forever remain in the hearts of nations of the Asia-Pacific States as a sincere and close friend who worked for the highest ideals and in the best interest of the region. His name will be deeply etched in our history as it records him as one of the great contemporary statesmen.

The Asia-Pacific Group once again reiterates its deep sorrow for the loss of a visionary man whose wisdom and leadership will be missed and remembered. At the same time it honours a remarkable leader who strove for regional stability, for which we owe him a great debt. We wish the people of Uzbekistan great happiness and success in the future. We also reaffirm the Asia-Pacific Group's commitment to working in close cooperation with his successor. May he rest in peace in the land of his ancestors.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Estonia, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Ms. Lind (Estonia): On 2 September, the world learned of the passing of His Excellency President Islam Karimov of the Republic of Uzbekistan. On behalf of the Group of Eastern European States at the United Nations, I would like to extend sincere condolences to his family and to the Government and the people of Uzbekistan.

With the passing of Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan has lost the country's first President. Under the leadership of President Karimov, Uzbekistan emerged as an independent nation more than two decades ago. Islam Karimov was a true leader of his country. Major landmarks in the history of the modern Uzbek State are laid to his name. Under Mr. Karimov's leadership, Uzbekistan pursued foreign policy that facilitated the consolidation of security and stability in Central Asia and the development of multilateral cooperation in the region. Once again, let me convey sincere sympathies to President Karimov's family and to the Government and all the people of Uzbekistan.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. De Aguiar Patriota (Brazil): It is my sad duty to offer tribute on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan.

On 1 September, the Republic of Uzbekistan celebrated its quarter-century anniversary of independence. Festivities were soon interrupted as Mr. Karimov passed away the following day. Uzbekistan became a sovereign nation under the leadership of President Karimov. Since then, it has played an important international role and has been an active

Member of the United Nations. Uzbekistan was the first country to ratify the Treaty of Semipalantinsk, signed in Kazakhstan in September 2006, paving the way for the full establishment of the fifth nuclear-weapon-free zone in the world.

As pro tempore Chairman of GRULAC, I wish to emphasize the great significance of this fact. In 2017, Latin America and the Caribbean nations will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area of the world. GRULAC takes this opportunity to commend the efforts of President Karimov towards our people's shared objective of a world free from nuclear weapons. Under President Karimov, Uzbekistan supported the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a landmark in the pursuit of a world free from poverty, hunger, disease and want. President Karimov promoted Uzbekistan's domestic economy and the export of commodities.

Uzbekistan has always been a hub for trade and cultural exchange. Samarkand, the city in which President Karimov was born, is one with ancient roots in the Silk Road, recognized by UNESCO as a world heritage site. GRULAC extends its most sincere condolences to the Uzbekistani Government and people and to the family of President Karimov for their loss.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. Mendonça e Moura (Portugal): On behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, I extend to the people and to the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and, above all, to the family our deepest condolences on the death of Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Islam Karimov, the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, will be remembered as a leader whose tenure marked the modern history of his country. He led the newly independent Uzbekistan, conceiving a new foreign policy for the country both in the region and beyond. During his long-standing political leadership of the country, he worked towards economic, educational and agricultural reforms. The members of the Western European and other States Group wish a smooth transition of power in the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure stability and prosperity for the country and its people and look forward to the preparations for the

4 December elections. Our thoughts are at this moment with his family, friends and the people of Uzbekistan during this difficult time.

The President: I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Madrakhimov (Uzbekistan) (spoke in Russian): I should like to thank those who have taken the floor, as well as all delegations, for their condolences and support in this dark time for my country. The entire people of Uzbekistan were struck by a huge, unfathomable loss. On 2 September we lost the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov.

At the head of independent Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov won the utmost prestige as a leader in State affairs, preparing and implementing a carefully crafted strategy for the building of a legal democratic State with an open civil society and a market economy. Maintaining and strengthening the sovereignty and independence of Uzbekistan were always the top priorities of President Karimov and became the fundamental principles behind his policies. The people of Uzbekistan directly ascribe the significant achievements of the country from the years following independence with the activities and person of Mr. Karimov, who is the author of the country's Constitution, which is fully in line with the principles of democracy and international law. He ensured that the document was fully implemented.

From the very first days of independence, Islam Karimov was deeply convinced that political independence is impossible without economic independence. That is why he drew up a programme of far-reaching reforms and restructured the country's economy, which was later recognized across the globe as the Uzbek model for development. The lynchpin of the model was the implementation of strategic priorities for reform — not for reform's sake, but for the people. On his initiative, Uzbekistan conducted far-reaching structural reforms in the areas of high technology, as well as petrochemicals, automobiles, agriculture, railway machinery, pharmaceuticals, electrical engineering, textiles and construction materials.

The practical implementation of President Islam Karimov's reforms brought the country recognition as one of the five fastest growing economies of the world. He organized agricultural reform, creating a new class of landowners — a farmers' movement. Upon his initiative, a programme is being carried out

for the full reform of the model of villages and farms to ensure high standards of living for those in rural and agricultural areas.

As Commander-in-Chief, Islam Karimov carried out far-reaching reforms to increase the military might and potential of the armed forces, enabling them to protect the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the inviolability of its borders and a peaceful life for its people. He drew up and implemented the concept for the country's foreign policy, the cornerstone of which was a love of peace, based on non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States and resolving any dispute or conflict through exclusively peaceful, political solutions.

Islam Karimov made a huge contribution to ensuring peace and stability in the region and across the globe. In a total break with old dogmas and stereotypes, the President initiated the drafting and implementation of a full national programme for professional training and educational reform in line with the latest international standards. Islam Karimov tirelessly led the work to establish a new system for the education of young generations, changing the thought process and view of our youth, who will be the determining factor in the present and future of Uzbekistan. He elevated respect for the spiritual values of our people to the level of State policy, preserving and revitalizing our religion, traditions, customs and invaluable historical heritage, and making a major contribution to the increasing visibility of the country in the international arena. He initiated the establishment of the institutions of civil society, and in particular enhanced the role of the institution of *mahalla* in Government and broadened its rights and purviews.

Our people know and highly appreciate Islam Karimov as someone who carried out far-reaching reforms that totally changed the face of our capital, the city of Tashkent, and other cities and towns, modernizing their infrastructure and architecture. In recognition of his contribution to the development of Uzbekistan as a sovereign and independent State and the establishment of a democratic legal State ensuring civil peace and national agreement, Islam Karimov was named a Hero of Uzbekistan and awarded the Mustakillik and Amir Temur Medals. He was an active member of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. He was also recognized as Doctor Emeritus by a number of foreign States, and awarded with honorary titles,

medals and decorations from various States and leading international organizations.

Islam Karimov selflessly gave himself to his people and country. His whole life, up until his very last day, was offered in service to Uzbekistan. The hallowed name of the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and a great son of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, shall forever remain engraved in the hearts and minds of our people.

Ms. Young (Belize), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Agenda item 7

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

First report of the General Assembly (A/71/250)

The Acting President: I invite the General Assembly to direct its attention to section I of the report of the Committee. In this section, the General Committee takes note of the information contained in paragraph 2.

I request the General Assembly to now direct its attention to section II, entitled "Organization of the session", which contains a number of recommendations concerning the General Committee, the rationalization of work, closing dates for the session, schedule of meetings, the general debate, conduct of the meetings and so on.

In paragraph 26, the General Committee draws the attention of the Assembly to the fact that the general debate shall begin on Tuesday, 20 September, and recommends that it continue on Saturday, 24 September.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the information contained in paragraph 26 and approves the recommendation that the general debate continue on Saturday, 24 September?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: All other recommendations in section II of the report of the Committee concern established practice, so rather than go through them one by one, I believe it would be beneficial to address as a whole all of the organizational matters concerning the General Assembly. There being no comments on that approach, we shall proceed accordingly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of all of the information and

to approve all the recommendations of the General Committee contained in section II of the report?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Having just adopted the recommendation in paragraph 21, on waiving the requirements of rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to declare a meeting open, I should like to encourage delegations to be present in the meeting rooms at the scheduled time in order to promote punctuality and efficiency in the Assembly's proceedings.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of the information contained in paragraph 53 concerning the timely submission of draft proposals for the review of their programme budget implications?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I now invite members to turn their attention to section III, dealing with the adoption of the draft agenda. The question of the allocation of items will be dealt with subsequently in section IV.

In section III, the General Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 67 to 69. In paragraph 70, in connection with item 38 of the draft agenda, entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading B, entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security", on the understanding that there would be no consideration of this item by the General Assembly. May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 71, in connection with item 59 of the draft agenda, entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Sassas da India", the General Committee decided to recommend that consideration of this item be deferred to the seventy-second session of the General Assembly and that the item be included in the provisional agenda of that session. May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 72, in connection with item 62 of the draft agenda entitled

"Peacebuilding and sustaining peace", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading B, entitled, "Maintenance of international peace and security".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 73, in connection with item 88 of the draft agenda, entitled "Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading F, entitled "Promotion of justice and international law", on the understanding that there would be no consideration of this item by the General Assembly before June 2017 and thereafter it may be considered upon notification by a Member State.

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 74, in connection with sub-items (mm), (nn), (oo), (pp) and (qq) of item 99 of the draft agenda, entitled, respectively, "Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices; Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons; Humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons; Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world; and Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions", the General Committee decided to recommend their inclusion under heading G, entitled "Disarmament".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 75, in connection with sub-item (i) of item 116 of the draft agenda, entitled "Appointment of members of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 76, in connection with sub-item (u) of item 133 of the draft agenda, entitled "United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 78, in connection with item 172 of the draft agenda, entitled "Observer status for the Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries in the General Assembly", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 79, in connection with item 173 of the draft agenda, entitled "Observer status for the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America in the General Assembly", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 80, in connection with item 174 of the draft agenda, entitled "Observer status for the Pacific Islands Development Forum in the General Assembly", the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 81, in connection with item 175 of the draft agenda, entitled "Observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly", the General

Committee decided to recommend its inclusion under heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We turn now to the agenda recommended by the General Committee in paragraph 82 of its report for adoption by the General Assembly, taking into account the decisions just adopted with respect to the draft agenda.

Bearing in mind that the agenda is organized under nine headings, we shall consider the inclusion of items under each heading as a whole. I should like to remind members once again that, at present, we are not discussing the substance of any item.

Items 1 and 2 have already been dealt with. We shall now turn to items 3 to 8. May I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We turn now to the inclusion of the items listed under heading A, "Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences". May I take it that the items listed under heading A are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We now turn to heading B, entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security". May I take it that the items listed under heading B are included on the agenda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Armenia.

Mr. Samvelian (Armenia): As this is the first time that the delegation of Armenia takes the floor at this session, I would like to begin by congratulating the President on his assumption of the leadership of the General Assembly, as well as the other members of the Bureau, and to assure them of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the deliberations and work of the General Assembly.

I wish to state that Armenia dissociates itself from the consensus on including item 37 on the agenda of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session. I would like to ask the President to request that the Secretariat duly reflect the Armenian position in the official records of today's meeting.

The Acting President: We take note of the statement by the representative of Armenia.

We now turn to heading C, entitled "Development of Africa". May I take it that the item listed under this heading is included on the agenda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Now we come to heading D, entitled "Promotion of human rights". May I take it that the items listed under it are included on the agenda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Heading E is entitled "Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts". May I take it that the item listed under this heading is included on the agenda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Next we turn to heading F, entitled "Promotion of justice and international law". May I take it that the items listed under heading F are included on the agenda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We now turn to heading G, entitled "Disarmament". May I take it that the items listed under this heading are included on the agenda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Heading H is entitled "Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations". May I take it that the items listed under the heading are included on this agenda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Lastly, we turn to heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters". May I take it that the items listed under heading I are included on the agenda?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We turn now to section IV of the report of the General Committee, on the allocation of items.

The General Committee took note of the information contained in paragraphs 83 to 85. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of the information contained in paragraph 85 concerning the granting of observer status?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We shall now turn to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 87 to 91. We shall take up the recommendations one by one. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members that the item numbers cited here refer to the agenda in paragraph 82 of the report before us, document A/71/250.

We shall now turn to paragraphs 87 (a) to (m), which relate to a number of plenary items. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to take note of all of the information that the General Committee wishes it to take note of and to approve all of the recommendations of the Committee contained in paragraphs 87 (a) to (m)?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We turn now to paragraphs 88 (a) and (b), which relate to item 98, "General and complete disarmament", and to sub-items (mm), (nn), (oo), (pp) and (qq) of item 98, entitled, respectively, "Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices", "Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons", "Humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons", "Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world" and "Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions" of the First Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraphs 88 (a) and (b)?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We turn now to paragraphs 89 (a) to (c), which relate to sub-item (u) of item 132, entitled "United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund"; item 135, entitled "Programme planning" and item 145, entitled "Administration of justice at the United Nations" of the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraphs 89 (a) to (c)?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We turn now to paragraphs 90 (a) to (d), which relate to item 170, entitled "Observer status for the Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries in the General Assembly"; item 171, entitled "Observer status for the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America in the General Assembly"; item 172, entitled "Observer status for the Pacific Island Development Forum in the General Assembly"; and item 173, entitled "Observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly" of the Sixth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraphs 90 (a) to (d)?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We shall now turn to paragraph 91 of the report of the General Committee on the allocation of items to the plenary and to each Main Committee.

We turn first to the list of items recommended by the General Committee for consideration directly in plenary meeting under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items listed for consideration directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Next we come to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the First Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the First Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We now turn to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of those items for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We come now to the list of items that the General Committee recommends

for allocation to the Second Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We come now to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Second Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the Second Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We turn now to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Third Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Next, we come to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Fifth Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Lastly, we come to the list of items that the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Sixth Committee under all the relevant headings. Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of these items for consideration by the Sixth Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of the first report of the General Committee. I wish to thank all the members of the Assembly for their cooperation. Each Main Committee will receive the agenda items allocated to it so that it may begin its work in accordance with rule 99 of the rules of procedure.

I would now like to draw the attention of representatives to a matter concerning the participation of the Holy See in its capacity as an observer State in the session and work of the General Assembly.

In accordance with resolution 58/314, of 1 July 2004, and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/58/871, the Holy See, in its capacity as an observer State, will participate in the work of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, with no further need for a precursory explanation prior to any intervention.

I would also like to draw the attention of representatives to a matter concerning the participation of the State of Palestine, in its capacity as an observer State, in the sessions and work of the General Assembly.

In accordance with resolutions 3237 (XXIX), of 22 November 1974; 43/177, of 15 December 1988; 52/250, of 7 July 1998; and 67/19, of 29 November 2012, and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/52/1002, the State of Palestine, in its capacity as an observer State, will participate in the work of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, with no further need for a precursory explanation prior to any intervention.

In addition, I would like to draw the attention of representatives to a matter concerning the participation of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, in the sessions and work of the General Assembly.

In accordance with resolution 65/276, of 3 May 2011, and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/65/856, observers of the European Union will participate in the work of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, with no further need for a precursory explanation prior to any intervention.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.



General Assembly

Seventy-first session

3rd plenary meeting

Monday, 19 September 2016, 8:30 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Thomson (Fiji)

The meeting was called to order at 8.40 a.m.

High-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants

Agenda items 13 and 117

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution (A/71/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on programme budget implications (A/71/389)

The President: This meeting is held in accordance with General Assembly decision 70/539, of 22 December 2015, and resolution 70/290, of 30 June 2016.

Before proceeding, I would like to inform members that action on the draft outcome document, contained in document A/71/L.71, will be taken following the statement by the Secretary-General.

Statement by the President

The President: We are witnessing the worst humanitarian and refugee crisis since the Second World War. Millions are fleeing armed conflict and the brutal effects of war. Others are escaping violence, persecution and systematic violations of their human rights. Some are uprooting their lives in response to the adverse

effects of climate change and natural disasters. Others still are in search of opportunity and a better life for their children.

Over half of the world's refugees are children, most of whom are unable to gain access to education. Women and girls on the move are particularly vulnerable and often suffer the compounding effects of physical insecurity, multiple forms of discrimination and a lack of access to basic services. I have been horrified that so many desperate people in search of refuge, security and opportunity have been met by hostility and hateful rhetoric. Hopefully, the Secretary-General's new campaign to counter xenophobia will help to overcome such negativity.

I urge all people to recognize the positive contribution that migrants make to the countries in which they settle. Today's adoption of the draft New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/71/L.1) will mark an important step forward and reflect our collective commitment to address this global challenge. I urge all Member States to swiftly implement their commitments under the draft Declaration.

This time last year, the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted, ushering in a new transformative framework for our world. Through our collective pledge to leave no one behind, we undertook to ensure that development gains would reach the most vulnerable. In that context, we must ensure that the needs of refugees and migrants are not overlooked.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>).



The principle objective of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly is a universal push towards implementing all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals. If implemented effectively, the 2030 Agenda will eliminate extreme poverty, sustain peace, increase local opportunity, combat climate change and address many of the root causes driving people from their homes.

During the seventy-first session, I will take forward the commitment of the membership under the draft New York Declaration to begin a process leading to a global compact on migration and a global compact on refugees. I will also begin to engage with the membership on preparations for a successful intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018.

I urge Member States to maintain their high levels of ambition throughout these processes and to always reach for higher ground on the basis of our common humanity and our values of decency and equality. The well-being of millions rests with us at the United Nations, and we must not fail them in their hour of need.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session and co-Chair of this high-level plenary meeting.

Mr. Lykketoft: As we meet, millions of people across the world are on the move. Far too many are fleeing indiscriminate attacks, conflict and violence, while others are driven by persecution or a lack of opportunity. It is a challenge the scale of which we have never seen. The desperation and suffering of people in flight tugs at our collective conscience and compels us to act compassionately to forge a global response to what is clearly a global challenge.

Regrettably, some countries are disproportionately carrying the weight of this shared responsibility. Despite the generosity of some, we have not at all been able to fill the persistent humanitarian funding gap. We must fill that gap. That is also why we are here today.

The year 2016 has been a transformative one in redefining and focusing international cooperation on one of the most critical challenges of our time. I congratulate the facilitators and all the representatives of the Member States on their efforts during the seventieth session leading to the draft New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/71/L.1), to be adopted shortly.

The draft Declaration reflects the collective commitment of the international community to protecting the human rights of all people regardless of their migration status, strengthening support to countries most affected by the crisis, increasing both the volume of and access to humanitarian assistance, recognizing the positive contribution of migrants and enhancing international cooperation on migration.

I call on the General Assembly to ensure that those important commitments are fulfilled without delay. I also call on all partners — civil society, international financial institutions and the private sector — to support the implementation of commitments and strengthen the coherence of our efforts.

I warmly welcome the Secretary-General's new campaign to counter xenophobia and intolerance. In the face of a changing world, it is vital that we do not give in to fear, but that we strive to maintain our principles and our common humanity. The lives of so many depend on it.

The President: I now give the floor to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: Today's summit represents a breakthrough in our collective efforts to address the challenges of human mobility. More people than ever are on the move. Some are fleeing war, while others are seeking opportunity.

Refugees and migrants are not to be seen to be a burden; they offer great potential, if only we unlock it. We must place the human rights of all refugees and migrants at the heart of our commitments. When we translate the draft New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/71/L.1), which we will adopt here today, into reality, more children will be able to attend school, more workers will be able to securely seek jobs abroad, instead of being at the mercy of criminal smugglers, and more people will have real choices about whether to move once we end conflict, sustain peace and increase opportunities at home.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development advances those goals. The draft Declaration we will adopt today rallies all partners around collective commitments to protecting the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of their status, increasing support for the hardest-hit countries, assisting despairing people in protracted crises, ensuring that children get an education, improving search-and-rescue

operations and boosting humanitarian funding and the resettlement of refugees.

Also today, we will formally bring the International Organization for Migration (IOM) into the United Nations system, which will further strengthen our collective response. I extend my congratulations to the IOM.

We must change the way we talk about refugees and migrants. And we must talk with them. Our words and dialogue matter. That is why today the United Nations is launching a new campaign called Together — Respect, Safety and Dignity for All. Acting together, we can respond to increasing xenophobia and turn fear into hope. I call on world leaders to join the campaign and to commit together to upholding the rights and dignity of everyone forced by circumstance to flee their homes in search of a better life.

This summit shows that we can find common ground. But the summit will have real meaning only if we all honour the promises made here today. With courageous actions to implement the draft New York Declaration, we will ensure that no refugee or migrant is left behind. I thank the General Assembly for its strong commitment and leadership.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/71/L.1, entitled "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants". In that connection, I would like to draw the Assembly's attention to the note (A/71/389) by the Secretariat regarding programme budget implications.

In the light of the time constraints and in order to ensure the expeditious conduct of proceedings, any delegation wishing to make an explanation of position is kindly encouraged to do so in their statement to be delivered in the plenary meeting and/or to submit it for circulation as an official document.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/71/L.1. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/71/L.1?

Draft resolution A/71/L.1 was adopted (resolution 71/1).

The President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/290, I now give the floor to Mr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group.

Mr. Jim Yong Kim (World Bank Group): It is a great honour for me to be here and to address the General Assembly. I would like especially to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his leadership over 10 years and for convening this summit on refugees and migration. His call for international action to address the challenges and opportunities of large movements of people and to uphold the safety and dignity of refugees and migrants worldwide is exactly the right message at exactly the right moment. Today, we are in the midst of multiple crises. In addition to dramatically increasing our financial support for refugees, we at the World Bank Group are approaching our work in four completely new ways.

First, we are responding to the realization that we need much better data and analysis on refugees, migrants and internally displaced people. With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, we are improving our data collection to learn what happens when refugees leave their countries, what happens when they return and who among them is more likely to return. Already, our analysis is helping us to refocus our approach. For instance, we know that most refugees do not live in camps but are integrated in urban areas. While there have been many reports about the average time a refugee is uprooted, with estimates as high as 17 to 26 years, our new research has determined that in fact half of today's refugees have been displaced for four years or less, and half for more than four years. That means that development interventions focused early after a crisis could have a great impact on large numbers of refugees.

Secondly, with our partners, we are developing advanced warning systems so that we can anticipate where people will be moving and then respond quickly. In Yemen, we are working with the United Nations Development Programme to finance a public works programme to help people cope and earn money. We are also working with UNICEF to strengthen public-health interventions. For displaced people in Yemen and elsewhere, security is of the utmost importance. But unlike in the past, we are continuing to implement development programmes — even in the context of active conflict — in the belief that if we can increase the resilience of communities, we can prevent even greater displacement, which in turn will reduce trauma.

Thirdly, we are working during crises to help host countries improve the business climate and use the private sector as a driver to stimulate economic growth.

In Jordan and Lebanon, we are bringing to our Board in the coming weeks our first operational projects using concessional finance for middle-income countries. In Jordan, we want to help create special economic zones to generate in excess of 200,000 new jobs for Jordanians and for Syrian refugees. In Lebanon, we are planning an education project to allow 200,000 Syrian children to enrol in Lebanese public schools.

Finally, we are now looking for longer-term solutions in a number of countries — including Afghanistan, Kenya and Somalia — for issues ranging from increasing agricultural productivity in areas hosting refugees, to helping refugees return to their countries. We will continue to strengthen our engagement with the United Nations, other multilateral development banks, the private sector, civil society and many other organizations to meet the needs of millions of displaced people. Much is riding on the outcome of this summit, especially for the people who have fled their homes. We are shaping both their future and our common future.

The President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/290, I now give the floor to Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr. Grandi (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees): Listening to refugees is a sobering experience. Last week, the number of refugees uprooted from South Sudan in less than three years surpassed the 1 million mark. I met some of them three weeks ago. They told me harrowing stories of loss, of family, of home, of homelands and of hope. I have heard similar stories in many other countries I have visited this year. Therefore, this summit could not come at a more urgent time. It is important that we talk about both refugees and migrants. There are many common features that we must join forces in tackling, but refugees have, and must retain, a distinct status, because conflict and persecution mean they cannot go home. With more than 65 million people forcibly displaced globally as refugees, or within their own countries, it is time to recognize that we cannot proceed as we have been.

Today, we have an extraordinary opportunity to shift gears. Addressing forced displacement is a humanitarian challenge that requires global solutions and engaging a full range of instruments and actors in the political, security, humanitarian and development

spheres. So far, so good. That has been said before. But what is different now? The difference is that the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (resolution 71/1) marks a political commitment of unprecedented force and resonance. It fills what has been a perennial gap in the international protection system, namely, truly sharing responsibility for refugees in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. For the first time, the comprehensive refugee response framework, which is part of the declaration and which the Assembly is asking the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to initiate and help develop, importantly sets out the blueprint to make that happen.

In emergencies, in protracted crisis and in our search for solutions, we must now trigger the engagement of a much broader range of actors through predictable — another key word — cooperative arrangements, initiated even before a crisis strikes. That can be done. In Uganda, for example, the Government maintains an open-door policy, which I saw myself just a few days ago, and has mobilized a broad range of partners and institutions in an innovative response, centred on education and livelihoods, including for host communities. That is key. Stronger, earlier engagement by development partners and international financial institutions, as just explained by the President of the World Bank, is a fundamental game changer. And there is immense potential in the role of the private sector.

For all of that to work, we look to Member States for political engagement, for funding, for technical support and for concrete actions in support of host countries, which bear the greatest responsibility, and to pursue solutions. The world, shocked by images of people fleeing in huge numbers and dying at sea, does not want our intentions to remain on paper. Practical action and results are needed so that forced displacement can be managed in a principled manner and resolved with courage and vision. I pledge to work with Member States to achieve that.

The President: Before proceeding to the next speaker, we will now begin the ceremony for the signing of the agreement concerning the relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration, which will take place pursuant to resolution 70/296.

I now invite to the table the Secretary-General and the Director General of the International Organization for Migration.

The Secretary-General and the Director General of the International Organization for Migration signed the agreement.

The President: We have now concluded the ceremony for the signing of the agreement in accordance with resolution 70/290. I congratulate the United Nations family and the International Organization for Migration. This is an important moment as we ensure that the United Nations system is fully integrated to advance a comprehensive and coordinated response for the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and to address the dire situation of migrant and refugee communities.

I now give the floor to Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration.

Mr. Swing (International Organization for Migration): The signing of this historic agreement brings the leading global migration agency, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), into the United Nations and culminates a 65-year relationship with the Organization. For the very first time in 71 years, the United Nations now has a migration agency. This is a singular honour for our organization and a genuine success for migrants in particular, but also for Member States and indeed for this summit. On behalf of the IOM's 10,000 colleagues, in some 500 duty stations on all five continents, I wish to thank the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Presidents of the General Assembly at its seventieth and seventy-first sessions, as well as the 165 member States of the IOM and the 193 States Members of the United Nations, who are assembled here today, for that bold and visionary decision.

Three developments have brought us to this landmark moment today: first of all, global migration trends; secondly, fortuitous timing; and, thirdly, trust built on a half-century of cooperation. The first point is that migration has become a megatrend of our century. We live in a world on the move where there have never been so many people in movement. There is unprecedented human mobility: 1 billion of the 7 billion people in the world are migrants, making one in every seven of us a migrant. Were the 244 million international migrants to constitute themselves as a country, they would have a population slightly smaller than that of Indonesia, and slightly larger than that of Brazil. They would have a gross domestic product roughly equal to that of a small- to medium-size European country and far exceed all foreign aid.

The forces driving migration are demography, disasters, the digital revolution, distance-shrinking technology, north-south disparities and environmental degradation. Unfortunately, as a result of those driving forces, a record number of people are uprooted and forced to move: refugees, internally displaced persons, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors. Climate change threatens yet a further 75 million who are living just one metre above sea level.

We are also facing a series — which I have not seen in my lifetime — of unprecedented simultaneous, complex and protracted crises and humanitarian emergencies, in an arc of instability that stretches from the western bulge of Africa to the Himalayas. Worse still, there is little prospect, that I see, to resolve any of these crises in the short- to medium-term. Widespread, growing anti-migrant sentiment and policies have led to the cruel irony that those fleeing terrorism and armed conflict are themselves now accused of terrorism and criminality in the public mind of many.

Besides the challenges of disasters, we face the demographic challenge of a global North in demographic deficit and a global South with a turgid rate of job creation facing demographic surplus. Our thesis is that migration is inevitable in this century owing to the drivers I mentioned, necessary if our economies and societies are to flourish and highly desirable if we are to have responsible and humane migration policies. To do that we have to change the current toxic public narrative on migration and learn to manage inexorably growing ethnic, cultural, social and religious diversity.

The second point is that we live with an evolving migratory landscape. The timing for such an agreement today has proved to be fortuitous. Global concerns, especially in Europe, led to a series of major agreements in 2015, a watershed year. Those agreements for the first time gave the United Nations an explicit, official migration mandate, and gave the International Organization for Migration, as a non-United Nations member, a more formal association with Organization in the interest of both institutions. Those agreements are the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Migration also had a prominent place on the agenda of the World Humanitarian Summit.

We are gathered here today at a historic summit, the first ever to assemble Heads of State from around the world to address the question of refugees and

migrants. I am very grateful to the co-facilitators and others who took part in developing the important New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (resolution 71/1). Timing, therefore, became a critical element in the decision of IOM member States to seek formal association with the United Nations.

Thirdly — my final point — we are actually formalizing an old relationship. Many people long thought that the IOM was already part of the United Nations. We have done everything together. We cooperate with all agencies. And we have built up a level of trust that made the negotiations fairly straightforward. After all, we were born all born together, in 1951, along with our traditional partner the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to bring Europeans ravaged by the Second World War to safe shores and new lives. Since then, we have collaborated so closely that we have continued to think of ourselves as part of the United Nations in many ways. Together with UNHCR, we have brought at least 6 million people — refugees — to safe shores. Trust therefore became a precious commodity throughout our negotiations. We will continue to keep our member States fully and regularly informed. We will continue to insist on being cost-effective with our business model — where 97 per cent of our 10,000 people are overseas and where, out of a budget of \$1.5 billion, we will use less than \$50 million to run the organization. We will also continue to offer quick delivery, the same sort of openness that allowed us to come to consensus on this agreement.

Let me conclude by saying that these three elements made the agreement possible — global trends, decades-long trust, and fortuitous timing. The positive nature of the agreement underscores that migration is not so much an issue to be resolved or a problem to be solved, but rather it is a human reality that we all have to manage together. To do that, we have to be both responsible and humane. This can be a defining moment for human mobility, beginning with the summit.

Mr. President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/290, I now give the floor to Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mr. Al Hussein (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights): This should not be a comfortable summit. While the leadership of the Secretary-General, and his fine report (A/70/59), should

be acknowledged by all, as well as the admirable efforts by Ireland and Jordan to achieve political consensus, this summit cannot be reduced to speeches and feel-good interviews, with a dash of self-congratulation — and then we move on.

When millions of people see freedom's invitation only through the flapping canvas of a tent; when they carry their children and their possessions on their backs, walking hundreds, perhaps even thousands of miles; when they and their families risk drowning, and are kept cramped in appalling detention centres and, once released, risk abuse by racists and xenophobes — there is no cause for comfort here.

The bitter truth is that this summit was called because we have been largely failing. We have been failing the long-suffering people of Syria, in not ending the war in its infancy. We have been failing others in now-chronic conflict zones, for the same reason. And we have been failing millions of migrants, who deserve far more than lives marked by cradle-to-grave indignity and desperation.

It is shameful that the victims of abominable crimes should be made to suffer further by our failures to give them protection. It is abhorrent that desperate women, men and children can be branded as criminals, and detained for months, even years, incurring further damage to their physical and mental health. We can change this. Here at this summit. Together we can work towards respect, safety and dignity for all. But we cannot achieve this when the defenders of what is good and right are being outflanked in too many countries by race-baiting bigots who seek to gain or retain power by wielding prejudice and deceit, at the expense of those most vulnerable and, ultimately, even those who support them initially.

An epidemic of amnesia is at the heart of this moral collapse in some quarters. Many seem to have forgotten the two world wars. What happens when fear and anger are stoked by half-truths and outright lies? A density of hatred builds up. The pin is pulled. The timer is released, and humankind's rendezvous with the demon of world history beckons again. The bigots and deceivers, in opposing greater responsibility-sharing, promote rupture. Some of them may well be in the Hall this morning. If they are here, we say to them, we will continue to name them publicly. They may soon walk away from the Hall, but not from the broader judgment of "we the people", all the world's people, not from us.

Mr. President: I now give the floor to Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, who will read out a statement on behalf of Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration, pursuant to resolution 70/290.

The Deputy Secretary-General: The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration, Mr. Peter Sutherland, worked very hard to make this summit a reality. Unfortunately, he has taken ill and has not been able to travel to New York. He has asked me to convey the following message to the General Assembly.

"We are here today to take action together on one of the great issues of the twenty-first century, international migration. It is an issue fraught with peril, but also full of promise. Migrants and refugees are some of the world's bravest people, but also among the most vulnerable. Their success or failure is our success or failure. Our ability to protect refugees and to integrate migrants is a barometer of the health of our institutions, starting with the rule of law.

"A year ago, United Nations States Members committed themselves to facilitate safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration. If we have foresight and if we implement smart policies, migration will save lives and strengthen our communities. If, instead, we turn against each other and pursue selfish policies, then we will empower the proponents of fear in our societies.

"Unfortunately, in crises we have often passed on our responsibility for refugees, not to those best able to give them refuge but to those closest to the crisis. Proximity, however, does not define responsibility. We have failed to unite around principles that should govern us. Tens of thousands of lives have been lost. Let today be the turning point.

"I will soon publish a report on how we can manage migration better by working together. I will suggest policies and initiatives that will achieve the following: first, respond to movements caused by crises and protect vulnerable migrants; secondly, give people a chance to migrate in an orderly, safe and regular way; thirdly, reduce the human and financial costs of migration; and, fourthly, strengthen the capacity the United Nations has to manage this phenomenon. Today we have taken an important step by welcoming and incorporating the

International Organization for Migration into the United Nations family. This means an important strengthening of the United Nations work on migration.

"By the time we hold an international conference in 2018, I trust that we will have a global compact on migration, and that it is not just ink on paper, but a new set of agreements on how States can work together to manage migration. For that to happen, Member States should start working now. I am already in touch with States and other stakeholders willing to act. I encourage the Assembly to join them. Determined actors can now be pioneers on these crucial issues."

Mr. President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/290, I now give the floor to Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka (UN-Women): It is an honour to address this plenary meeting as the 2016 Chair of the Global Migration Group. The year 2016 marks the Global Migration Group's tenth anniversary, and it is at a crucial time. The Group has grown, both in size and relevance. Two additional members joined this month. I am equally pleased that the International Organization for Migration, one of the founding members of the Group, has just joined the United Nations system as a related organization.

The Group stands ready to support and to be with those who suffer indignity and persecution. The Global Migration Group stands ready to support Member States, civil society and stakeholders within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We do so first, through the implementation of existing commitments, which includes migration-related Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, and those made today in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (resolution 71/1); and, secondly, through processes leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration, and the adoption of a global compact on refugees.

The Group was honoured to help with the preparation for this summit, and to contribute to the concept notes for the six round tables being held today. Furthermore, Group members are working closely with the thematic working groups and task forces to develop tools and guidance on many issues covered in the New

York Declaration. Those include a guidance note on integrating migration and displacement in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework; principles and guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on human rights protection for migrants in vulnerable situations within large and/or mixed movements; a handbook for improving the production and use of migration data for development; the International Labour Organization's Principles and Operational Guidelines on Recruitment, and the International Organization for Migration's International Recruitment Integrity System.

Those are critical tools because they will enhance our collective work and help us identify the impact of all these movements on women, children, men and the elderly. Our members, individually and collectively, are committed to supporting Member States and all other contributors in finding solutions that fulfil the aspirations of the New York Declaration. The Group's approach to addressing large movements of refugees is people-centred, human-rights-based and gender-responsive. That includes recognizing the cultural and economic value women and girl migrants and refugees add to societies, and the indignities they suffer. It also involves creating national and international policies that specifically protect and safeguard the often grossly violated rights of women and girls.

The President: In accordance with resolution 70/290, I now give the floor to Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Mr. Fedotov (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime): The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stands in solidarity with all gathered here to promote justice and better protect vulnerable women, children and men on the move who are subjected to violence, abuse and exploitation. We cannot allow the biggest migration and refugee crisis since the Second World War to be exploited by criminals as a business opportunity.

In that respect, I welcome the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (resolution 71/1), as it recognizes that refugees and migrants in large movements are at risk, and that States need to vigorously combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling, including through proper identification and support, as required by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially

Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Above all, it is a question of respect. There must be respect for human life and the recognition that every single man, woman and child on the move is a person deserving of, and entitled to, protection. There must be respect for the law and the rule of law: criminal law obliges States to investigate and prosecute crimes and provides rights to victims, including those with irregular status.

To date, 156 countries have made human trafficking a specific criminal offence, as required by the Trafficking Protocol. While implementation of the Protocol remains a challenge, 142 countries have committed to doing the same to stop migrant smuggling. For justice to be done, we need States to respect their own laws. For justice to be truly for all, we need to work together, share responsibility and acknowledge that we can and must do more to stop human suffering. UNODC is here to support members.

The President: In accordance with resolution 70/290, I now give the floor to Mr. Mats Granryd, Director General of the Global System for Mobile Communications Association, as a representative of the private sector.

Mr. Granryd (Global System for Mobile Communications Association): It is a true privilege to join all gathered here today as we work together to address the urgent issue of the large movement of refugees and migrants at a time when the world looks to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the road map to our future and that of our children.

For those here who are unfamiliar with the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), our association represents nearly 800 mobile operators and approximately 300 companies across the broader mobile ecosystem and adjacent industries. Collectively, our members connect nearly 4.8 billion individuals worldwide. Mobile is no longer viewed as just a technology, but rather as an invaluable asset to deliver life-enhancing services to the underserved, providing solar power to homes, helping farmers improve their livelihoods, creating financial infrastructure through mobile money and many other services that are critical to development.

Among the connected, there are millions of forcibly displaced people, many of whom face abuse and marginalization, but who find in mobile technology a critical lifeline to stay connected to their families, access vital information, navigate their new homes and regain their dignity. That connectivity is so important that we have witnessed refugees who prioritize charging facilities for their mobile phones or Wi-Fi access points above other essential items.

Mobile technology and connectivity are also increasingly at the heart of any humanitarian response, providing vital resources for displaced populations, including mobile-based cash disbursements, digital health services, learning tools in refugee classrooms and beyond. The mobile industry has been particularly active in supporting humanitarian response in times of disasters and crisis. The Humanitarian Connectivity Charter, launched 18 months ago, has already been signed by more than 100 mobile operators in over 75 countries. The Charter is designed to improve preparedness in disasters, reduce loss of life and aid recovery through access to communication and information for those affected by the crisis.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality. If we are to realize that vision by 2030, the current displacement crisis must be our collective priority. The mobile industry, with its unique scale and reach, is committed to continuing and increasing its effort as necessary, but we cannot solve the challenge alone. No one can. An unprecedented situation such as the one we are dealing with calls for a systemic solution, with everyone doing his or her part.

I would like to conclude by calling on everyone — Governments, industry, humanitarian organizations and individuals — to come together to leverage our collective resources in order to build sustainable partnerships that will reduce suffering and preserve the dignity of those affected by crises. Only then will we be on a path to transforming our world and achieving a better future for all.

The President: In accordance with resolution 70/290, I now give the floor to Ms. Eni Lestari Andayani Adi, Chairperson of the International Migrants Alliance, who will speak as a member of the migrant community.

Ms. Adi (International Migrants Alliance): I am honoured to stand before the General Assembly to

speak on behalf of 244 million migrants from all over the world who cannot be here today.

After years of voicelessness and invisibility, we migrants have finally been welcomed here to speak for ourselves. We are the people who have been denied the future, the rights and the dreams we used to imagine for ourselves. When I was young, I dreamed of obtaining a higher education and making a contribution to my family and society. But worsening crises have affected my family in Indonesia and millions of other poor people. We wake up every day facing a reality of deepening poverty, unemployment, the lack of a chance at an education, eroding social services and the loss of our land. Like many others, I had no choice but to take a job abroad as a migrant domestic worker, so that I could put food on our table, pay off our parents' debt and send my siblings to school.

However, for the majority of people like me, the promise of a better future is a lie. We are trapped into debt bondage, trafficked and tricked into slavery, with our basic rights denied. We are left vulnerable to abuse and many disappear or even die. Our dream has become a nightmare, a nightmare driven by a system that creates profit for those in the migration business and enables companies to push wages down. Our future is bleak. We expect protection and services but are left alone to deal with our suffering. We are alone in a system that does not value migrants' rights and dignity or recognize us as workers or people. We are just cheap labour, commodities. Our vulnerability is exploited and migration policies reinforce our invisibility. We are perceived as security threats, yet we are transformed into an industry generating billions that some Governments talk about as a development opportunity.

In our experience, no matter how much we sacrifice, migration does not guarantee the kind of development that will enable us to go home to a decent life. No matter how hard we work, we are never recognized as workers and human beings with dignity and equality. We wish to be seen and heard, not marginalized and excluded. We deserve respect for our humanity. Migrants are collectively struggling and organizing to make our dreams come true. We have a clear message. Listen to us. Do not talk about us without us. The world wants us to remit, but what we need is for the world to commit — to justice, to development that does not tear our families apart, to a future that relies on the strength of its own people, not the continued export and exploitation of those on our level. The international

conventions on this issue continue to be mere pieces of paper that do not translate into action.

Two years from now, the United Nations is set to adopt a draft global compact on migration. Let us make it real and actionable, frame it as an appropriate foundation and ensure that its implementation will not result in exploitation, displacement, forced migration, conflict or poverty. Let us work for a world without vulnerability, insecurity or invisibility. As people, as workers, as women, as migrants, we are ready to make that happen. Please work with us.

The President: In accordance with resolution 70/290, I now give the floor to Mr. Mohammed Badran of Syrian Volunteers in the Netherlands, who will speak as a representative of civil society.

Mr. Badran (Syrian Volunteers in the Netherlands): I speak today on behalf of every young refugee in the world.

In preparing for today's summit, I received many messages from refugees both in Europe and in Syria, desperate to be heard. It would take too long to read them all out, but there is one message that I have to share. It is from Zuhir, a Palestinian Syrian, stateless and stuck like me, with no possibility of escaping the war. He said,

"We are living on the edge of hell. We have been waiting so long for the day when the world will hear our voice. I hope it is today."

From the time of my arrival in the Netherlands, I saw how even Europe is struggling with the growing number of refugees. There is intense public fear about them. As young refugees, we face that anger and fear every day. Doors are closed to us. Higher education is denied us. We are often dismissed, not taken seriously or underestimated. With crisis after crisis, conference after conference, it seems that inaction is the only thing that the international community can agree on. If today world leaders are unable to find a solution to the refugee and Syrian crises, this summit will be no different from all the other conferences.

We young refugees have dedicated our youthful energies to helping our own communities, our new homes and the ones we have left behind. In the Netherlands, together with my Syrian refugee friends, I have established an organization that in less than two years has expanded to become a network of more than 600 volunteers ready to give back and grow. I am proud

to be wearing its T-shirt today. Let us hope that today's summit will be different, and that the international community will share the responsibility for refugees and agree to take action on the following points. They are, first, ending the violence in Syria and protecting its civilians; guaranteeing safe routes for all refugees and no longer putting our lives on hold; empowering refugees to lead projects for refugees so that we can help our peoples; and providing access to higher education for all young refugees so that we can return and rebuild our homes in the future.

My last message to those here is this. In our small way, refugees are already taking action. We want the world's leaders to the same.

The President: In accordance with resolution 70/290, I now give the floor to Ms. Nadia Murad Basee Taha of the organization Yazda, who is also the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking and who will speak as a member of a refugee community.

Ms. Murad (Yazda) (*spoke in Arabic*): I am a survivor of the Yazidi genocide, now a refugee. I was a villager who found herself torn from her life of freedom and dreams to become a slave, without hope, under the rule of the so-called Islamic State. When Da'esh attacked us they killed men and enslaved women. They killed my mother, along with 80 older women, because they did not want to use them for sexual enslavement. They killed six of my brothers and took me, along with 6,500 Yazidi women and children. They committed crimes against thousands of women in slave markets before the eyes of the international community. I wished death upon myself so that I would not see everyone I loved killed or enslaved, or at best, a refugee or a displaced person.

After fleeing, I became an internally displaced person in the Kurdistan region, where 1.5 million refugees live under difficult conditions. I then moved to Germany as an immigrant. Try to imagine, even for a moment, that you are refugees in camps. How would you be able to get food for your family while your tent is drenched with water? How would you be able to provide an education and medical attention for your children while you are unemployed?

Do you know when the happiest day in my life was? It is not today speaking to world leaders. It is when I was working my mother's farm planting vegetables, or

when we would head to the mountain for a picnic. Those indeed were the happiest days. I met many refugees in Greece whose lives, freedom and dignity have been destroyed. One of them said, "There is no life here, and there is no place to return to". We are living a third world war without naming it as such.

Today I want to convey to you a message from all victims around the world. As leaders, you must know that whatever you do will impact either positively or negatively on the lives of simple people. You decide whether it is to be war or peace. You decide to give hope or suffering. You are the ones to decide whether another girl, just like me, in a different part of the world, will be able to lead a simple life, or be forced to live in suffering and bondage. We must put an end to war. We must bring to justice all those perpetrators of crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity. Terrorist organizations, including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Boko Haram, are the main reason behind the displacement of millions. We must eliminate all those monsters, once and for all.

We should not wait for years to restore peace. We should not close our borders to innocent women and

children fleeing from violence. We must stand with persecuted minorities. The world has only one border. It is called humankind. The differences between us are small as compared to our shared humanity. From this rostrum, I beg you all to put humans first and to carry with you the message of Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. I beg you all to put humans first and that each of one of you support peace. If beheadings, sexual enslavement and the rape of children do not prompt you to action, when will you act? You and your families are not the only ones to deserve life. We also deserve a life.

The President: We have heard the last speaker for the opening segment of the high-level plenary meeting. As members are aware, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/290, this high-level meeting consists of a plenary meeting, six interactive multi-stakeholder round tables and a closing plenary meeting. The plenary meeting will begin immediately following the conclusion of this opening segment, and will be held simultaneously in the Economic and Social Council Chamber and the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

The meeting rose at 9.45 a.m.